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August 9, 2005

Mr. Gary Bardini, Chief, Hydrology Branch – Division of Flood Management
Department of Water Resources
Joint Operations Center
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95821-9000

Subject: Department of Water Resources –
Review of a Proposal to Drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

Dear Mr. Bardini,

The North Coast County Water District relies on water provided by the San Francisco regional water system to serve our residential, commercial, industrial and community water customers. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is a major water diversion and storage facility in this regional system. We appreciate your offer to accept comments as part of DWR's review of the proposal to drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

North Coast County Water District serves a population of approximately forty-thousand (40,000) in San Mateo County, one of four counties with a combined population of over 2.4 million residents served by the Hetch Hetchy System. We are a member of Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA). We ask you to ensure that your study will address the five critical requirements cited in BAWSCA's attached statement.

To protect the health, safety, and economic well-being of 1.7 million people served by BAWSCA's members, it is imperative that DWR explicitly state that the five BAWSCA requirements must be fully resolved before any responsible decision can be made about whether or not to drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir:

1. No delay in rebuilding the earthquake-vulnerable Hetch Hetchy system caused by a program to drain the reservoir or destroy the dam.
2. No change in the quality of water delivered to San Francisco customers in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

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3. No increase in the cost of water for San Francisco's customers in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Any increased capital, operating, maintenance and administrative costs resulting from draining or destroying the dam shall not be borne by the existing or future water customers of the system through their water bills.
4. No change in physical facilities or institutional arrangements should reduce water supplies or expose existing and future water customers to more frequent or severe water shortages.
5. No modifications to the existing water system or its operation until all replacement facilities are funded, built and operational, and all institutional arrangements are in place, and fully funded.

Thank you, Mr. Bardini, for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. O'Connell, P.E.

General Manager

North Coast County Water District

cc: Mr. Arthur Jensen, General Manager, BAWSCA